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as a military measure. But he sees in it a still higher significance, for it was also a "phenomenon of social discipline." In the study of this as of the other parts of his subject he has made a thorough use of the best authorities. He has not always deemed it necessary to go to the original sources for his facts, and has freely used the standard histories like those of Häusser, Lehmann and Droysen. In the appendix he has reproduced several original documents, mostly from French sources. The book is evidently one written with the purpose of making Frenchmen better acquainted with the formation of the state which, as their chief enemy, they ought to understand; but the author has not sacrificed either historical truth or historical perspective in carrying out this purpose.

ULYSSES G. WEATHERLY.

Modern France, 1789-1895. By ANDRÉ LEBON. [The Story of the Nations.] (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1898. Pp. ix, 488.)

IT is our impression that most readers will lay down this book with a sense of mild disappointment. The volume has a tasteful appearance, but the coarse board under the cloth is heavy, and in the new copy given by a friend to the reviewer had warped so as to split the cloth; the paper is heavily loaded, the plates, presumably new, already give a blurred impression of certain pages, and the illustrations—it is hard to imagine the service they have already rendered elsewhere. The text does not in any way compensate for the clumsiness and cheapness of the book. The translator has laboriously set down a verbal rendering of the original, and while the number of distinct Gallicisms is but small the entire contents are a witness to the truth of the Italian proverb, *Traduttore, Traditore*. A French author writing for his countrymen may go far on the road of condensation and generalization without becoming obscure, but among Englishmen and Americans it requires an expert in French history to grasp the sense of M. Lebon, as stated in many places among these pages. But we might put up with these drawbacks, with such phrases as "elective urn," "neorosis (*sic*) of the chambers," and "Nonjurant" wrested from its specific to a general meaning, with the "jurisdiction of juries," "superiority of guilty passion," "councils of discipline," "aureole of martyrdom," and other similar phrases, a harvest of which can be reaped throughout the book; from all such juxtapositions of words we might trust our mother-wit to get for us a vague meaning by means of the context, provided the labor and anxiety were worth while. But it is doubtful whether they are.

M. Lebon is probably a painstaking functionary; he appears also to be the ripe product of the over-charged programmes of the reorganized French colleges and universities. In fact on p. 365 he calls attention to his position, that of an active politician, as unfitting him for the task of a historian. He can only give "salient facts," he may not pronounce "circumstantial judgments" (whatever they may be), nor even enter into

“chronological details,” a more mysterious realm. The character of his work testifies not only to the perfect sincerity of this confession, but likewise to the intellectual training he has had. All told there are four hundred and sixty-two pages of text; exactly a third, a hundred and fifty-four pages, is given up to a catalogue of the French celebrities of the period, men and women famous in literature, art, science, medicine and every other department of human activity. Of each the erudite author has an estimate; longer or shorter, according to renown, but a final estimate given without hesitation. Such a range of critical activity is afforded to few. The truth is that terseness like this is nugatory, not to say misleading, and such a display of mere knowledge is utterly un-historical.

Of the remaining three hundred and eight pages about two-fifths are occupied by writing which displays the essential vice of modern French life, namely, the criticism of the successive constitutions which throughout the epoch he essays to treat have been put on paper and inaugurated in practice, only to be rejected and discredited. M. Lebon's remarks are fair enough, but the proportion of space given to such considerations indicates that the hope of securing a constitution which by the magic of its working will remedy the evils of French life has not yet disappeared from the minds of French politicians. As they idealize their army into a superhuman power above criticism, so they still seek the ground of political stability in a paper of rights and regulations, in a theory as to the subdivision of powers, and as to an application of checks, balances, and regulations to administration. There will be no satisfactory political reformation in any people without an underlying social regeneration; unselfishness and loftiness of purpose may be furthered, but they cannot be created, by charters.

Finally, there remains the narrative of “salient facts.” Concerning this it may be said that it must be read with caution. There are minor inaccuracies in the statements of facts and dates which may be passed over as slips due to haste. But it is distinctly misleading to say that “Bonaparte had recaptured Toulon,” p. 39; that “the Directory allowed itself to be persuaded by its famous general” to undertake the Egyptian expedition, p. 63; that the revolt of “Romanticism against the philosophic spirit of the eighteenth century produced a religious revival,” p. 259; that “the brute force of material interests” controls the direction of events, p. 259; that “the King of Prussia ordered his cousin to withdraw his candidature” to the Spanish throne, p. 335; or that “Liberals and simple Democrats alike were forced into opposition to the Church in order to deprive the reactionaries of their last refuge.” These are but a few examples of how “salient facts” should not be stated; they are taken almost at hazard in turning the pages of the book.

But the careful reading of the book as a whole leaves more than discontent with details. Old France disappears, the Revolution begins, the Red Terror lifts its awful head, the organized demoralization of society appears in the Directory—all apparently without any causal nexus be-

tween social states, except that each suffered from a poor constitution. States of society succeed one another, thrones rise and fall, ministers appear and disappear, and we are left in darkness as to any sufficient reason, the author, as far as he is visible, being apparently a fatalist and pessimist, as he truly declares that most able Frenchmen are. We are told little or nothing about public opinion, except that on one occasion it was "nauseated," and about the great constructive elements which undoubtedly exist in the French life of the nineteenth century we get no adequate information at all. Of course there are some praiseworthy qualities in the effort of M. Lebon. He does not lose himself in details; he gives a useful outline of events in their sequence; he is fairly interesting. He may be a scientific thinker, and in his attempts to connect literature and life in their various phases there are indications that he has examined some questions with scientific curiosity. There prevails also in his work a sense of self-respect and a feeling of patriotism which command our admiration.

Geschichte Europas seit den Verträgen von 1815 bis zum Frankfurter Frieden von 1871. Von ALFRED STERN. Zweiter Band. (Berlin: Wilhelm Hertz. 1897. Pp. xvi, 572.)

THE first volume of Dr. Stern's history of Europe since 1815 appeared in 1894 and at once won its way to the favor of scholars. In this, the second volume, published last year, the author has continued the narrative from the year 1820 to the year 1825, and has not only fully maintained the standard already established, but all things considered, *me judice*, has given us results of even greater interest and merit than were those presented in the first volume. This is due partly to the fact that the period dealt with abounds in dramatic situations and incidents, partly to the greater unity of the subject, which tends to hold the attention of the reader, and partly to the increasing wealth of material of a personal character—letters and the like—which the author has utilized in writing his book.

Dr. Stern begins his volume with a careful and elaborate account of the Spanish revolution of 1820, passes to that of Portugal of the same year, and then, crossing the sea to Italy, takes up the earlier phases of the Neapolitan uprising. He then examines the circumstances attending the calling of the congresses of Troppau and Laibach, and with two valuable chapters on the diplomatic efforts of Metternich, the deliberations of the plenipotentiaries, and the results of their meetings, completes his study of the first phase of the general revolutionary movement in Europe. He next describes the Greek revolution, devoting altogether nearly a quarter of the book (125 pages) to the history of this subject from 1820 to 1825; and in the midst of his narrative, having brought the Grecian movement to the year 1822, returns to the Spanish revolt, works out the situation in France, and by this path come to the calling of the congress of Verona and the intervention of the French in Spain. At the close of this chapter